

## CLAIMS

1        1.        A computer-aided method of collaborating on the terms and conditions of  
2        shipment and sale, the creation of documents and the tracking of an international  
3        shipment of goods and approving payment from a credit facility or demand deposit  
4        account, the collaboration including an exporter, an importer and an importer's bank,  
5        the method including:

6                setting authorizations for international shipment participants to enter, view and  
7                approve aspects of data that

8                record conditions and instructions for payment from the importer to the  
9                exporter,

10               track progress of the international shipment participants toward meeting the  
11               conditions for payment, and

12               allow the importer to electronically approve payment to the exporter by the  
13               importer's bank from the credit facility or demand deposit account;

14               receiving agreed conditions and instructions for payment;

15               receiving documentation from the exporter or exporter's agent corresponding to  
16               fulfillment of the agreed conditions for payment, without need for bank  
17               evaluation of the documentation;

18               electronically initiating an approval to pay following evaluation by the importer  
19               or the importer's agent that the conditions for payment have been fulfilled,  
20               modified or waived, the approval to pay corresponding to the instructions for  
21               payment; and

22               receiving a status update confirming payment of the exporter.

1        2.        The method of claim 1, wherein setting authorizations further includes  
2        authorizations for the international shipment participants to view images of  
3        documents.

1        3.        The method of claim 1, further including sending draft conditions and  
2        instructions for payment to the exporter.

1        4.        The method of claim 1, further including advising the importer's bank of  
2 the agreed conditions and instructions for payment.

1        5.        The method of claim 1, wherein payment is executed by the bank,  
2 corresponding to the approval to pay.

1        6.        The method of claim 1, further including exposing to view by the  
2 international shipment participants status tracking information regarding  
3 establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,  
4 the documentation of fulfillment and  
5 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
6 payment.

1        7.        The method of claim 6, wherein the exposed status information identifies,  
2 for particular roles, whether the particular roles are responsible to carry out a next step  
3 in  
4 the establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment;  
5 the documentation of fulfillment; and  
6 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
7 payment.

1        8.        A computer-aided method of collaborating on the terms and conditions of  
2 shipment and sale, the creation of documents and the tracking of an international  
3 shipment of goods and authorizing payment from a credit facility or demand deposit  
4 account, the collaboration including an exporter, an importer and an importer's bank,  
5 the method including:

6        setting authorizations for international shipment participants to view and edit  
7 aspects of data that

8        records conditions and instructions for payment from the importer to the  
9 exporter,

10       tracks progress of the international shipment participants toward meeting the  
11 conditions for payment, and

12 allows the importer to electronically approve payment of the exporter by the  
13 importer's bank from the credit facility or demand deposit account;  
14 receiving agreed conditions and instructions for payment to the exporter;  
15 generating or uploading documentation corresponding to fulfillment of the  
16 conditions for payment, without need for bank evaluation of the documentation;  
17 receiving notification that the importer's bank has been approved to pay the  
18 exporter, following evaluation by the importer or the importer's agent that the  
19 conditions for payment have been fulfilled, modified or waived, the approval to  
20 pay corresponding to the instructions for payment; and  
21 receiving a status update confirming transmittal of payment.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein setting authorizations further includes  
2 authorizations for the international shipment participants to view images of  
3 documents.

1 10. The method of claim 8, further including receiving draft conditions and  
2 instructions for payment from the importer.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the status update is generated by the  
2 bank, corresponding to the approval to pay.

1 12. The method of claim 8, further including exposing to view by the  
2 international shipment participants status tracking information regarding  
3 establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,  
4 the documentation of fulfillment and  
5 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
6 payment.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the exposed status information  
2 identifies, for particular roles, whether the particular roles are responsible to carry out  
3 a next step in  
4 the establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,  
5 the documentation of fulfillment and

6 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
7 payment.

1 14. A computer-aided method of collaborating on the terms and conditions of  
2 shipment and sale, the creation of documents and the tracking of an international  
3 shipment of goods and authorizing payment from a credit facility or demand deposit  
4 account, the collaboration including an exporter, an importer and an importer's bank,  
5 the method including:

6 electronically receiving an approval to pay following evaluation by the importer  
7 or the importer's agent that agreed conditions for payment have been fulfilled,  
8 modified or waived, the approval to pay corresponding to agreed instructions for  
9 payment;

10 paying the exporter in accordance with the agreed instructions; and

11 posting a status update to a tracking system confirming payment of the exporter,  
12 wherein the tracking system

13 authorizes international shipment participants to view and edit aspects of  
14 data that records the agreed conditions and instructions for payment,

15 tracks progress of the international shipment participants toward meeting the  
16 agreed conditions for payment and

17 tracks payment to the exporter.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further including exposing to view by the  
2 international shipment participants status tracking information regarding

3 establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,

4 the documentation of fulfillment and

5 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
6 payment.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the exposed status information  
2 identifies, for particular roles, whether the particular roles are responsible to carry out  
3 a next step in

4 the establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,

5 the documentation of fulfillment and  
6 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
7 payment.

1 17. A computer-aided method of collaborating on the terms and conditions of  
2 shipment and sale, the creation of documents and the tracking of an international  
3 shipment of goods and approving payment from a credit facility or demand deposit  
4 account, the collaboration including an exporter, and importer and an importer's bank,  
5 the method including:

6 setting authorizations for international shipment participants to view and edit  
7 aspects of data that

8 records conditions and instructions for payment from the importer to the  
9 exporter,

10 tracks progress of the international shipment participants toward meeting the  
11 conditions for payment, and

12 allows the importer to electronically initiate payment of the exporter by the  
13 importer's bank from the credit facility or demand deposit account;

14 receiving and storing agreed conditions and instructions for payment;

15 storing and transmitting documentation corresponding to fulfillment of the agreed  
16 conditions for payment, without need for bank evaluation of the documentation;

17 processing an electronically initiated approval to pay, following evaluation by the  
18 importer or the importer's agent that the conditions for payment have been  
19 fulfilled, modified or waived, the approval to pay corresponding to the stored  
20 agreed conditions and instructions for payment; and

21 processing and exposing for view a status update confirming payment to the  
22 exporter.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein setting authorizations further includes  
2 authorizations for the international shipment participants to view images of  
3 documents.

1        19.    The method of claim 17, further including transmitting between the  
2 importer and the exporter draft conditions and instructions for payment.

1        20.    The method of claim 17, further including transmitting to the importer's  
2 bank the agreed conditions and instructions for payment.

1        21.    The method of claim 17, wherein the confirmation is initiated by the  
2 bank, corresponding to the approval to pay.

1        22.    The method of claim 17, further including exposing to view by the  
2 international shipment participants status tracking information regarding  
3 establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,  
4 the documentation of fulfillment and  
5 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
6 payment.

1        23.    The method of claim 22, wherein the exposed status information  
2 identifies, for particular roles, whether the particular roles are responsible to carry out  
3 the next step in  
4 the establishment of the conditions and instructions for payment,  
5 the documentation of fulfillment and  
6 the approval of fulfillment, or the abatement or waiver of the conditions for  
7 payment.

1        24.    A computer-aided system that facilitates collaborative tracking of an  
2 international shipment of goods and approval of payment from credit facility, the  
3 collaborators including an exporter, and importer and importer's bank, the system  
4 including a computer system, including storage, resources and logic accessible by  
5 international shipment participants, the logic adapted to:

6        set authorizations for the international shipment participants to view and had  
7 aspects of data that

8        record conditions and instructions for payment from the importer to the  
9 exporter,

10 track progress of the international shipment participants toward meeting the  
11 conditions for payment, and  
  
12 allow the importer to electronically approve payment of the exporter by the  
13 importer's bank from the credit facility;  
  
14 receive and store agreed conditions and instructions for payment;  
15 store and transmit documentation corresponding to fulfillment of the agreed  
16 conditions for payment, without need for bank evaluation of the documentation;  
17 process an electronically initiated approval to pay, following evaluation by the  
18 importer or the importer's agent that the conditions for payment have been  
19 fulfilled, modified or waived, the approval to pay corresponding to the stored  
20 agreed conditions and instructions for payment; and  
21 process and expose to view a status update confirming payment of the exporter.